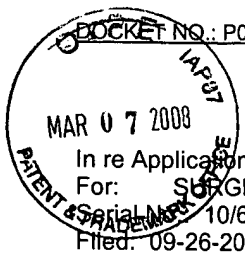


857
PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
IDS TRANSMITTAL

In re Application of: Laurent Schaller, et al.
For: SURGICAL CONNECTION APPARATUS AND METHODS
Serial No. 10/672,009
Filed: 09-26-2003

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8 I hereby certify that this **IDS Transmittal** and the paper(s), as described herein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 4 day of March, 2008.

Diane Anderson
Signature
Diane M. Anderson
Printed Name

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- ☒ PTO FORM 1449
- ☒ Copies of cited non-US Patent documents
- ☒ Return Postcard

- ☒ Please charge **\$180.00** to Deposit Account No. 13-2546 for the filing of the IDS.

- ☒ Please charge any fees or credits to Deposit Account No. 13-2546 which may have been overlooked on this IDS Transmittal with regard to this filing.

3/4/08
Date

James R. Keogh
James R. Keogh, Reg. No. 44,824
Telephone: (763) 505-8424
Customer No.: 27581



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Laurent Schaller, et al.

Examiner: Tuan Van Nguyen

Serial No.: 10/672,009


Group Art Unit: 3731

Filing Date: 09-26-2003

Docket No.: P-22022.00

Title: SURGICAL CONNECTION APPARATUS AND METHODS

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8: I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 4 day of March, 2008.



Signature
Diane M. Anderson

Printed Name

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

Dear Sir:

In compliance with the duty imposed by 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, and in accordance with C.F.R. §§ 1.97 *et. seq.*, the materials enclosed herewith are brought to the attention of the Examiner as possibly being of interest in connection with the above-identified patent application.

Consideration of each of the documents listed on the attached Form 1449 is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. §609, Applicant further requests that a copy of the Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, be returned with the next Official Communication.

Copies of all non-U.S. Patent documents are enclosed except for the following documents:

DE 0219999 03-1910

DE 0377052 06-1923

"VCS Clip Applier System," published in 1995 by Auto Suture Company, a Division of U.S. Surgical Corporation.

Copies of these documents were not available after a diligent search. Applicants believe that copies of these documents should be available in U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 08/781,577, filed on Jan. 9, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,879,371 or U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 09/259,705, filed on March, 1, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,514,265.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.

Applicants assert that nothing herein is intended to be construed as an admission as to whether a document constitutes prior art to the present application. Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.31-1.132, or otherwise, to establish that the document(s) are not "prior art."

Please charge the \$180.00 fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17(p) for the submission of this information disclosure statement to Deposit Account No. 13-2546.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurent Schaller, et al.
By their Representatives,

Dated: 3/4/08

By: 

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